

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05057 240922Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /047 W
-----038395 241404Z /53
R 240821Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0025
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 5057

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINR, CH
SUBJ: WRAP-UP OF POST-NPC PROVINCIAL PARTY CONGRESSES

REF: A) HONG KONG A-59; B) HONG KONG 4330

1. REFERENCED AIRGRAM (APRIL 20, 1978) ON THIS SUBJECT
IS SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. RESULTS OF THE FEW PROVINCE-LEVEL PARTY CONGRESSES
HELD SO FAR SUGGEST AT THE VERY LEAST THAT THE TENG GROUP
OF VETERANS IS MAINTAINING ITS INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, THE
FACT THAT SO FEW CONGRESSES HAVE BEEN HELD SINCE THE
NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS LAST AUGUST ALSO BESPEAKS THE
CONTINUING STRENGTH IN MANY AREAS, ESPECIALLY NORTH
CHINA, OF LEADERS WHO CAME TO POWER DURING AND AFTER THE
CULTURAL REVOLUTION (CR).

3. THREE PROVINCES -- SHANSI, KWEICHOW AND KWANGTUNG --
HAVE HELD PARTY CONGRESSES SINCE THE FIFTH NATIONAL
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC) CLOSED IN EARLY MARCH, BRINGING
TO ONLY SEVEN (OUT OF 29) THE NUMBER OF PROVINCE-LEVEL
PARTY CONGRESSES SINCE LAST AUGUST; THE OTHER FOUR
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PAGE 02 HONG K 05057 240922Z

(HUNAN, TIBET, KWANGSI AND KIANGSU) WERE HELD AT THE END
OF LAST YEAR. RESULTS OF THE POST-NPC PARTY CONGRESSES
INDICATE THAT KWANGTUNG IS SOLIDLY IN THE TENG CAMP, AS
IS SHANSI. KWEICHOW, ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAINS AN
APPARENT SUPPORTER OF HUA AT THE TOP, BUT STILL INCLUDES A
MIX OF PARTY VETERANS AND CR PURGEES.

5. IN KWANGTUNG, WEI KUO-CHING WAS RE-APPOINTED FIRST SECRETARY. BUT DUE TO WEI'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN PEKING, DAILY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE HANDS OF NEWLY APPOINTED SECOND SECRETARY HSI CHUNG-HSUN (REF B) A REHABILITATED FORMER VICE PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL. HSI'S DEPUTY IS CHIAO LIN-YI, WHO WAS NAMED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, A TITLE WHICH HAS NOT BEEN USED PREVIOUSLY. IN KWEICHOW, MA LI WAS REELECTED FIRST SECRETARY, WHILE IN SHANSI, WANG CHIEN, A FORMER PURGEE, RETAINED THE NUMBER ONE JOB. MA LI'S CONNECTIONS WITH HUA KUO FENG MAY MAKE KWEICHOW IMPORTANT AS A BASTION FOR HUA IN SOUTH CHINA. WANG CHIEN'S ROLE IN SHANSI, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD BE VIEWED AS TENG HSIAO-PING'S WEDGE TO RECTIFY THE NORTH.

5. OF THE THREE PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES, KWANGTUNG'S HAS THE MOST IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL POLICIES. HSI CHUNG-HSUN, WHO HAD BEEN PURGED 16 YEARS EARLIER, WAS CRITICIZED IN A SHENSI PROVINCE RADIO BROADCAST ONLY TWO MONTHS BEFORE HIS REHABILITATION. SHENSI FIRST SECRETARY LI JUI-SHAN SOLIDLY SUPPORTS HUA KUO-FENG AND THIS CRITICISM ON A HUA SURROGATE'S TURF POINTS UP DISAGREEMENT AMONG TOP LEADERS OVER THE EXTENT TO WHICH REHABILITATION SHOULD BE CARRIED. A SECOND ISSUE RAISED IN KWANGTUNG WHICH INDICATES POTENTIAL POLICY DISAGREEMENTS WAS CONTAINED IN THE WORK REPORT PRESENTED BY CHIAO LIN-YI. CHIAO DECLARED THAT PERSONS WHO HAD ENTERED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HONG K 05057 240922Z

PARTY SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. (ALMOST HALF THE TOTAL NUMBER) "GENERALLY" LACK KNOWLEDGE OF THE PARTY'S TRADITIONS AND RULES AND ARE IN NEED OF EDUCATION. THOUGH REFERRING TO PARTY MEMBERS IN KWANGTUNG, THIS IMPLIES A SIMILAR ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS NATIONALLY, AND COULD MEAN RECTIFICATION FOR A FAR GREATER NUMBER OF CADRES THAN HAD BEEN INDICATED EARLIER. CRITICIZING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SUCH A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE PARTY IS AN ACT LIKELY TO CAUSE DISSENSION, NOT ONLY IN THE RANKS BUT IN THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP AS WELL.
LEVIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK05057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780174-0635
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780425/aaaaausc.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09d4c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 HONG KONG A-59, 78 HONG KONG 4330
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2873106
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WRAP-UP OF POST-NPC PROVINCIAL PARTY CONGRESSES
TAGS: PINT, PINR, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09d4c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014